



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

A PROCLAMATION

COLLEGE SAVINGS MONTH

- WHEREAS: Georgia is committed to creating educational opportunities for its students to be successful in the 21st-century workforce. Investments in young minds are essential to further supplying our state's talent pipeline to remain the No. 1 state in which to do business; and
- WHEREAS: Georgia families understand the value of higher education and recognize its importance for the future of their children. For many Georgians, however, the cost of higher education can pose a significant burden; and
- WHEREAS: For many families, commitment to consistent and proper financial planning is essential in ensuring children have access to education beyond high school; and
- WHEREAS: An average earnings gap exists between individuals with a high school diploma and those who earn a bachelor's degree or beyond. Over the course of a lifetime, that gap may exceed \$1 million, demonstrating the importance of these investments in the futures of Georgia's children; and
- WHEREAS: The State of Georgia recognizes the need to encourage saving and planning, rather than borrowing, to help Georgia families meet their higher education goals; and
- WHEREAS: Loan programs are often a primary source of financial aid for many college students, which may result in students graduating with debt that must be repaid long after they have completed their education; and
- WHEREAS: In accordance with state and federal law, the State of Georgia has established the Path2College 529 Plan, a Section 529 college savings plan that offers both state and federal tax advantages, to encourage saving for higher education expenses and to promote educational opportunities for all Georgia students; now
- THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim September 2018 as COLLEGE SAVINGS MONTH in Georgia and encourage Georgia citizens to recognize the value of higher education and to begin saving early and consistently for the education of their children.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 20th day of August in the year of our Lord two thousand eighteen.



Nathan Deal

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

Chris W. Riley

CHIEF OF STAFF